

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A liquid treating apparatus comprising:

a treating tank having at least two walls formed with a liquid inlet and a liquid outlet through each of which a liquid to be treated flows, respectively; and

a filtering layer unit including an antibacterial filtering layer, an adsorptive filtering layer and a filtering layer, the filtering layer unit being disposed between the liquid inlet and outlet;

and

wherein the antibacterial filtering layer comprises an antibacterial agent comprising a ceramic material serving as a carrier and at least one selected from the group consisting of silver and copper carried on the carrier as an antibacterial component and having an elution volume of said antibacterial component not more than 50 ppb.

Claim 2 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pretreatment tank disposed upstream relative to the treating tank and having at least two walls formed with a liquid inlet and a liquid outlet through each of which a liquid to be treated flows, respectively, and a rough filtration layer which is provided so as to surround the liquid outlet in the pretreatment tank and is capable of catching a grain which is contained in the liquid and has a grain size not less than 0.5 mm.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the adsorptive filtering layer includes an adsorbing material having a large specific surface area.

Claim 6 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the adsorptive filtering layer includes an adsorbing material having a large specific surface area.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the adsorptive filtering layer includes an adsorbing material having a large specific surface area.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the filtering layer includes a filter medium catching not less than 90% of grain having a grain size not less than 10 μm .

Claim 10 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the filtering layer includes a filter medium catching not less than 90% of grain having a grain size not less than 10 μm .

Claim 11 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering layer includes a filter medium catching not less than 90% of grain having a grain size not less than 10 μm .

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the filtering layer includes a filter medium catching not less than 90% of grain having a grain size not less than 10 μm .

Claim 14 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the filtering layer includes a filter medium catching not less than 90% of grain having a grain size not less than 10 μm .

Claim 15 (original). A liquid treating apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the filtering layer includes a filter medium catching not less than 90% of grain having a grain size not less than 10 μm .

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): A liquid treating apparatus according to any one of claims 1 [[16]], 2, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-15, wherein the antibacterial filtering layer, the adsorptive filtering layer and the filtering layer are attachable and detachable independent of one another.

Claim 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (new): A liquid treating apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said ceramic is aluminum oxide powder and said activated bacterial component comprises sodium borosilicate glass with dispersed inorganic silver and said antibacterial component is coated onto said aluminum oxide powder.